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The American Commonwealth. By JAMES BRYCE. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1910. Two vols. Pp. xv, 742; vii, 962.)

On comparing this edition with the one last preceding it—the third edition, published in 1894—it appears that no change has been made in the plan or scope of the work, and the views and conclusions of the author remain as before. It says much for the sagacity of the opinions originally expressed that further observation and experience should have developed no occasion for substantial correction. At the same time the work has received thorough revision, evidences of which may be found in nearly every chapter, but the changes relate mostly to statistical data, so as to bring them up to the present time. Chapter for chapter, the new edition is of the same tenor as the old, except with respect to new material readily distinguished. Chapter XXX on the “Merits of the Federal System” is enlarged by means of “a supplementary note,” extending over two pages and constituting an important addition. The Appendix to volume 1 in the old edition included “the Federal system of the English Universities,” and also “Specimens of Provisions in State Constitutions limiting Taxing and Borrowing Powers.” These are omitted in the new edition, but new matter is included in the shape of “Extracts from the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma.” In the 2d volume, Chapter LX on “The Machine” is enlarged by a note over three pages long on “Recent Legislation regarding Primaries,” and chapter LXXV on “What the People Think of It,” has a supplementary note covering two pages on “the growth of party.” Three entirely new chapters have been introduced in part V, entitled “The Latest Phase of Immigration,” “Further Reflections on the Negro Problem,” and “The New Transmarine Possessions.” A new chapter entitled “Further Observations on the Universities” has been introduced in Part VI, devoted to the consideration of social institutions. These changes and additions much enhance the value of the book, but the conclusions are not altered thereby. This will appear on attentive consideration of the weighty chapter in which Mr. Bryce gives his opinion on “the Future of Political Institutions.” Changes appear in a number of paragraphs, but they do no more than sharpen the opinions first made public twenty years ago. Perhaps the most significant of these additions appears in the sentence predicting that the time will come when “the chronic evils and problems of old

societies and crowded countries will have appeared on this soil." Here the sentence ends in the old edition; in the new it continues as follows:—"While the demand of the demand of the multitude to have a larger share of the nation's collective wealth may well have grown more insistent." The remark notes a sign of the times that portends a new pressure upon our political institutions which is already manifesting itself and which must deeply affect constitutional development. The existence of such a shrewd commentary upon the situation in all its details as is supplied by Mr. Bryce's great political classic is of inestimable value in promoting sound thought and sensible action.

HENRY JONES FORD.